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-LABOUR  
NUMBER 192

LABOUR UNION  
MEMBERSHIP—1954

Membership in Canadian  
unions reached 1,219,714  
at the start of the year.

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MINUTES



of  
**EMPLOYMENT  
FACTS**

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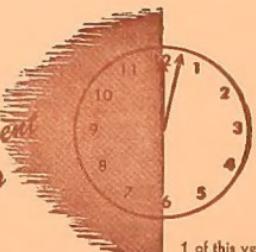
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# Brief Employment Facts



## LABOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP—1954

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR,  
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OTTAWA.

NUMBER 152

Membership in Canadian labour unions had reached a total of 1,267,911 at January 1 of this year, an increase of 48,000 members, or 4 per cent, over the previous year.

The largest membership increases during the year were within the international unions, particularly the larger ones. The number of local union branches reached 6,425, an increase of 190 for the year, and almost three-quarters of this increase occurred in the international unions.

There was no great change in the industrial or geographical distribution of union members during the year, and the increase in total membership, a continuation of the steady post-war growth of labour unions, appears to have resulted mainly from the regular increase of the labour force, rather than from the opening up of new areas of organization.

This information is taken from the 43rd edition of the annual report, "Labour Organization in Canada", which is to be published shortly. The report, compiled by the Economics and Research Branch of the Department of Labour, is based on information obtained from union locals and from the various union headquarters.

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Union membership figures from 1939 to 1954, to the nearest thousand, are as follows:

1939.....	359,000	1947.....	919,000
1940.....	362,000	1948.....	978,000
1941.....	462,000	*1949.....	1,006,000
1942.....	578,000	*1951.....	1,039,000
1943.....	665,000	1952.....	1,146,000
1944.....	784,000	1953.....	1,220,000
1945.....	711,000	1954.....	1,268,000
1946.....	839,000		

\*Figures for 1949 and earlier are for December 31.  
Those for 1951 and later are for January 1.

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About 83 per cent of all labour union members in Canada belong to unions affiliated with one of the three large labour congresses. Unions affiliated with the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada increased their membership by 6.7 per cent, and had 596,004 members in 3,471 branches at January 1. The Canadian Congress of Labour had 360,782 members in 1,424 branches, a membership increase of 2.3 per cent, and the Canadian and Catholic

Confederation of Labour had 100,312 members in 454 branches, a decrease in membership of about 4 per cent. The membership lost by the CCCL was mainly from the textile and construction industries.

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Most unions in Canada have comparatively small memberships—the report shows that the majority have fewer than 5,000 members. However, these smaller unions together account for little more than 13 per cent of all union members, while 22 large unions, each with 15,000 or more members, account for more than half of all Canadian organized workers.

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Among the industry groups, the transportation and communication group had the highest proportion of organized workers with more than two-thirds of its workers enrolled in unions. In manufacturing, mining, construction and logging from one to two-thirds of the workers were organized, while in services, trade, finance and public utilities less than one-third were organized. These proportions have changed very little in recent years.

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About 43 per cent of all the union members reported by local branches were employed in the manufacturing industries, 22 per cent were in transportation and communication, and 11 per cent were in the service industry. Of the other industry groups, construction employed 10 per cent of the total union members and the other groups each employed less than 10 per cent.

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The following table, giving union membership in the main industrial groups, is based on reports from about 86 per cent of known union locals:

	Membership 1954
Industry .....	30
Agriculture .....	35,900
Logging .....	8,300
Fishing .....	53,450
Mining .....	469,750
Manufacturing .....	109,550
Construction .....	245,400
Transportation and Communication .....	9,950
Public Utilities .....	23,200
Trade .....	50
Finance .....	185,700
Service .....	11,400
Industry not known .....	



## FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

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